

carry the day against the bowler-topped anachronisms on this bloody anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO JAN MEYERS, RECIPIENT OF 1998 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Honorable Jan Meyers, a former U.S. Representative and a personal mentor, who is the recipient of the 1998 Volunteer of the Year award presented by the Volunteer Center of Johnson County, Kansas.

Ms. Meyers has spent her life volunteering for numerous projects aimed at benefiting our community. Her career as a public servant, both as an elected official and as a volunteer, has been focused on bettering her neighborhood, the nation, and the world.

Her career started by working on local charitable and civic affairs including being an active member of the Overland Park, Kansas, City Council for five years. As a pioneer in Bi-State cooperation, Ms. Meyers was selected as the first Chair for the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), our bi-state metropolitan planning organization. She then was elected to the Kansas Senate where she served for six years. In 1984, State Senator Meyers ran for the U.S. House Kansas 3rd District and won in a decisive victory. Once her career as an elected official began, she championed legislation that was important to her district, region, and the nation.

Congresswoman Meyers succeeded to Chair the House Small Business Committee, the first Republican woman to chair a legislative committee in the House since 1954. Meyers also served with distinction on the International Relations Committee, Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee, and the Select Committee on Aging. In 1997, she retired from Congress after 13 years of distinguished service. Today, Ms. Meyers serves as a board member of the Metcalf Bank, the Johnson County Library Foundation, and the Johnson County Community College Foundation.

While in the House, Congresswoman Meyers fought successfully to achieve fiscal responsibility. The Concord Coalition rated her in the top 10 percent of House members for her votes to cut the budget deficit.

When I arrived in Congress in 1995, I had the honor of serving with Congresswoman Meyers on the Small Business Committee, where I looked to her as a mentor and friend for guidance of issues facing the Committee and the House. She remains a dedicated and respected public figure who continues to be a pioneer in business and community activities.

The business and civic community have honored her with the Golden Bulldog Award for her fiscal votes to cut the deficit and eliminate wasteful spending, the National Taxpayers' Friend Award for her votes to cut spending and her opposition to tax increases, the Guardian of Small Business, the Entrepreneur's Perfect Partner Award, and the Outstanding Services Award from the Kansas Library Association.

Before her career as elected official, Ms. Meyers was an original board member of the Johnson County Community College Foundation and the United Community Services. She also served as a member of the Board of the Johnson County Mental Health Association, and President of the Shawnee Mission League of Women Voters. Ms. Meyers was a key player in developing Overland Park's Legacy of Greenery Committee, and chaired the committee to expand and fund a system of streamway parks in Johnson County, Kansas.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Honorable Jan Meyers as the recipient of the Volunteer of the Year for 1998. It is an honor for me to recognize Jan for her hard work and dedication. I wish her well in her future endeavors and community activities.

PUBLIC UTILITIES IN A DEREGULATED MARKET

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, as the Chairman of the bicameral and bipartisan Tennessee Valley Authority Caucus in the 105th Congress, I submit the following:

REMARKS BY CRAVEN CROWELL, CHAIRMAN, TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY, TO THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, EUROPEAN ELECTRICITY '98 CONFERENCE, JULY 7, 1998—BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC POWER COMPANY IN THE DEREGULATED 21ST CENTURY

Thank you for that very kind introduction, and good morning, ladies and gentleman. It is indeed a great pleasure and an honor to be here today and I'm grateful for this opportunity to discuss—from the American perspective—some of the issues surrounding deregulation with experts from Europe, and around the world. I'm going to want to talk about the role of public utilities in a deregulated economy—and I'll try to keep my remarks general—but I'm most familiar, of course, with the Tennessee Valley Authority, where I serve as Chairman. So I hope you'll forgive my spending a little time about TVA.

I'm certain that many of you are already familiar with the Tennessee Valley Authority but for those of you who are not, let me offer just a brief sketch of TVA's history—or at least that part of our history that's relevant to the issues we're discussing today. We are a public utility—100 percent government owned—and we're the largest supplier of electricity in the United States. We're also a major employer, with over 14,000 employees. We were created by the United States Congress in 1933 under the administration of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In fact, TVA was created just 37 days after FDR took office, so I think it's clear that the mission of TVA had a high priority for the newly elected president.

FDR said that the Tennessee Valley Authority was to be "a corporation clothed with the power of government but possessed of the flexibility and initiative of a private enterprise." So you can see, from the start, that TVA had something of a dual identity—public ownership and public responsibilities, but the expectation that the company was to be fast on its feet, nimble and flexible, like a private corporation. TVA was created at a time when America and much of the world faced enormous hardships. The Great Depres-

sion—remember, this was 1933—was challenging whatever optimism remained after the tragedy of the Great War. But leaders like FDR believed that human will, properly channeled, and organized on a grand scale, could conquer hardship and adversity. Human will, harnessed by large-scale government works programs could—the "New Dealers" believed—reclaim the land, rebuild the shattered economy, and restore hope.

These bureaucrats—I guess that's what we'd call them today—believed that a public corporation like TVA could save the poor and the destitute of the Tennessee Valley. So TVA was not created principally to provide electric power to the Appalachian farmers who lived in the remote hills of the Tennessee Valley—in fact, electric power was not even part of its original mission. TVA was created to rebuild a broken society, and that's exactly what it did. Farmers needed to rebuild a broken society, and that's exactly what it did. Farmers needed to learn new methods of conservation so they could restore fertility to their barren farmland. Agricultural experts from TVA taught them. The rivers, prone to flooding and hazardous to navigate, needed to be tamed so they could serve the people who lived in their valleys.

Engineers from TVA tamed the rivers. TVA trained tens of thousands of poor farmers and gave them new skills. They built huge hydroelectric dams and sent electric power lines into parts of America that had never seen an electric light or used an electric appliance, and when electricity became a part of everyday life, experts from TVA helped teach energy conservation to the consumers of the power TVA produced.

Think about that. Long before conservation became fashionable, TVA was teaching people how to use less of what we make—not exactly part of a standard commercial business plan, but part of what we see as our public responsibility. Back in the '30s, TVA served the public good in thousands of ways and, most people would agree, helped break the stranglehold of the Great Depression.

I like to think that TVA played a significant part in creating the modern economy of the United States and the prosperity we've enjoyed in the second half of this century. But what about the next century? What will be the role of a public utility like TVA and public power companies in general in the deregulated 21st century? Public power now supplies 24.4 percent of the kilowatt-hours consumed by individuals and industries in the US. Will we continue to supply a quarter of the nation's electricity under deregulation? And what about rates? The cost of electricity in the United States can vary between 4 cents per kilowatt-hour in Kentucky, to nearly 12 cents in New Hampshire. The political pressure to level the national rate structure will be enormous. What role should public utilities play in that debate?

As we wrestle with all of these questions, I believe the challenge for the public utilities will be to continue to embrace the dual identity Franklin Roosevelt envisioned sixty-five years ago. Public in fact, private in behavior—solid and responsible, yet creative and competitive. In this way TVA, and public utilities like ours, will set a standard for public responsibility against which private companies can be measured . . . even as we continue to provide our core product—wholesale electric power—at competitive prices.

What will this mean in practice? Well, if we've learned anything in the United States in this last decade it is that deregulation does not automatically mean consumer benefit. We deregulated our telecommunications industry and, while we'd hoped to see new competition result in lower rates, the results—so far at least—have been mixed.